

Filed for intro on 04/06/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 589
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION urging the State Department of Education to modify and revise the portfolio assessment piloted for evaluating students with disabilities who do not participate in statewide assessment.

WHEREAS, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that the State or Local Education Agencies (LEAs) develop guidelines for the participation of children with disabilities in alternate assessments for those children who cannot participate in State and district-wide assessment programs; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education has piloted such an alternative assessment, referred to as the "portfolio assessment"; and

WHEREAS, during the pilot phase of the portfolio assessment concerns have arisen over the time involved in preparing the portfolio assessment, the excessive amount of paperwork involved, and the additional difficulties posed by excessive class sizes for students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, these concerns have been expressed statewide by a large number of teachers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

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CONCURRING, that the Select Oversight Committee on Education is hereby requested to study the appropriateness of the portfolio assessment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as soon as practicable the State Department of Education provide a written and oral report to the committee on any modifications and revisions made to the portfolio assessment after the pilot phase and before the implementation date of July 1, 2000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State Department of Education report to the committee on the training opportunities and materials made available to teachers using the portfolio assessment, departmental support during the academic year for teachers using the portfolio assessment, and any recommendations made to the State Board of Education regarding class size limits for students with disabilities.